



The Board Report

A bulletin of actions taken by the Dearborn Board of Education

A publication of the Communications Office

November 26, 2007

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

A. Edsel Ford Update- Mr. Hassane Jaafar, Principal Edsel Ford High School

Parents, students and staff jammed the Board Room to express their support for Edsel Ford High School. One by one they came to the podium and stated that they were proud to be part of the Edsel Ford community and supported the administration of the school. Following their remarks, Mr. Jaafar, Principal at Edsel Ford, gave a very informative report detailing the history, accomplishments, academic success, and strong school spirit found throughout the building. His report included a pledge to the Board that the school administration, the people in attendance, and the entire Edsel community would not stop working to keep Edsel a great school and continuously strive to make Edsel Ford the best high school. Go Thunderbirds!

DISCUSSION ITEMS

District Transportation Needs for 2008-09

Jerry Uchtorff, Director of Operations, Steve Lynch, Transportation Supervisor

Each day more than 3,500 kids are transported to and from school utilizing eighty district buses traveling almost 6,000 total miles a day. In 1996 the district bus fleet consisted of 70 buses but an increase in demand has brought the fleet to a total of 100 buses. Each year the district must replace buses that have reached the end of their practical use in order to maintain the integrity of the fleet. Last year, due to budget reductions, the district was not able to purchase any new buses for the 2007-08 school year. The district is planning on returning to the yearly purchase of buses and presented information to the Board regarding the details of the bussing program. The district is considering the purchase of ten new buses to be put in to operation in 2008-09. Ensuring student safety is first and foremost when deciding on purchasing new buses. Other factors considered include providing reliable service, reducing cost in maintenance and breakdowns, the availability of funds, and purchasing decisions made 10, 11 or 12 years ago.

BOARD ACTIONS

- Approved for the District's copier contract be assigned to C.B.I. Copy Products.
- Approved SIOP Training professional development proposal for \$26,111.00.
- Approved \$34,733.00 for the purchase of 111 DRA kits.
- Approved \$24,431.21 for additional closed circuit television cameras at Edsel Ford, and \$2,412.00 for annual maintenance.
- Approved, not to exceed \$40,000, for storm water drainage and paving at the Transportation center.
- Approved renovation of athletic facilities at Dearborn High School, Edsel Ford, and Fordson Hemlock Park.

COMMENDATIONS

***Bryant Student Council**, under the direction of teacher **Mrs. Magee**, raised over \$1,000 to help the family of a Bryant student. The money will be used to help defray medical cost associated with the student's life threatening illness. ***Bryant Middle School instrumental students** were recently asked to perform at the pre-concert event for the Motor City Brass Band. The group is under the musical direction of Bryant teacher **Rick Pierce**. ***Cotter Occupational Therapist Deborah Polkowski** gave an excellent Professional Development presentation to all of the district's Michigan School Readiness Preschool (MSRP) Teachers and Paraprofessionals on November 6. Mrs. Polkowski is a highly respected professional who has added valuable training to the MSRP staff with regard to exercise and muscle building in young children. The presentation was titled *Handwriting Without Tears*, and provided information about a developmentally appropriate handwriting program for preschool age children. The evaluations from all in attendance was rated Excellent ***Geer Park staff and students** recently collected over \$1,600 to send two children with muscular dystrophy to camp. After the day long event, students had a whole school writing assignment titled "The Day We Raised \$1,600". The letters were not only detailed but descriptive and explained the various emotions beginning with apprehension, fear, excitement and finally relief and victory. * **Dearborn High Varsity Volleyball Team** won their 15th consecutive MHSAA District Championship. Also, the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Association (MIVCA) awarded the team for being an All-State Academic Team with a GPA of 3.395. Individual awards from MIVCA included: **All-State Academic - Katie Higgins; All-Region Academic - Katie Higgins and Corey Ryan**. The Dearborn High Volleyball Team is under the direction of **Dianne Phillips**. *Congratulations to **Jessica Mann**, a student at the **Berry Career Center**. Jessica won 1st place at Lawrence Technological University for Architectural Design Models. Students from all over Michigan and Ohio competed to create 3-D structural designs. Evaluations were completed by the professors and Dean of the School of Architecture. Jessica's 3-D design was chosen from a field of 75 other student models.

* **Fordson High School Student Congress** collected more than 1,100 non-perishable food items for needy families in the community. * **Leaders of Tomorrow Club at Fordson** organized and collected \$1,460 to help a young man inflected with a serious medical condition. * Several teams of teachers from **Salina Intermediate, McCollough/Unis and Geer Park** provided the in-service on administration and interpretation of Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) during the November 6th Professional Development day. Their leadership in preparing and presenting the information in a practical manner is appreciated and assists the school district in implementing this common assessment in an effective manner. *The following staff members did an excellent presentation at the American Council for the Teachers of Foreign Language (ACTFL). Their presentation titled "A Unique Approach to creating Arabic Curriculum and Assessments" was well received and many organizations and teachers asked for copies of the thematic units the team has developed. The resources will be posted on the Dearborn district website soon. Team Members are:

Niaz Chahine, Becker
Sabah Beydoun, Becker
Nada Fouani, Becker

Khamael Al-Aloom, Becker/Salina Intermediate
Hala Hamka, Becker/Salina Intermediate.
Shereen Tabrizi, ASC

RESIGNATION

Heather Colunga, On Educational Leave, Childcare Provider, effective 11/26/07.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Fadia Dakroub, On Extended Health Leave, Paraprofessional/Instructional (Bilingual, effective 11/13/07.

Sandra Ghnaim, On Extended Health Leave, Bus Driver (Part-Time), effective 11/02/07.

Monica Goley, Snow, Lead Childcare Provider, effective 1/1/08.

Widad Luqman, On General Purpose Leave, Paraprofessional/Instructional, effective 10/24/07.

Barbara Porcek, On General Purpose Leave, Custodial A, effective 10/4/07.

OTHER SEVERANCE

Jessica Smith, On Laid off Status, Elementary Teacher, effective 11/27/07.

Casimir Zaborski, Lowrey, Custodial C, effective 11/27/07.

APPOINTMENT

Kafaih Abdallah, Paraprofessional/Instructional, Salina Elementary, effective 11/27/07.

Debra McGrew, Noon Hour Supervisor, Whitmore-Bolles, effective 11/27/07.

Jennifer Munroe, Payroll Specialist, Payroll, Administrative Service Center, effective 11/27/07.

Patrice O'Brien, Food Service Assistant, Dearborn, effective 11/27/07.

Faten Reda, Paraprofessional/Instructional, McCollough/Unis, effective 11/27/07.

Nidal Unis, Paraprofessional/Instructional, McCollough/Unis, effective 11/27/07.

SALARY SCHEDULE CHANGE OF STATUS

Michael Gothro, Fordson, Mathematics Teacher, from BA, Step 6, Schedule P-12 Teachers', to MA, Step 6, Schedule P-12 Teachers', effective 1/28/07.

Gillian Greenbaum, Departmental Emotionally Impaired Teacher, from BA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers', to MA, Step 3, Schedule P-12 Teachers', effective 1/28/07.

Connie Wilkinson, McCollough/Unis, Life Management Teacher, from BA, Step 12, Schedule P-12 Teachers', to MA, Step 12, Schedule P-12 Teachers', effective 1/28/07.

CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION

Sharon Orlando-Evans, from Lindbergh, Lead Childcare Provider, to Childcare Manager, Henry Ford, effective 11/27/07.

ACHIEVEMENT OF TENURE

Hala Hamka, Becker/Salina Intermediate, Foreign Language Teacher, effective 11/25/07.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, December 10, 2007, P-12 Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Administrative Service Center.

Monday, January 14, 2008, P-12 Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Administrative Service Center.